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## Governor Dummer Academy

South Byfield, Massachusetts

*Founded in 1763*

Bulletin of Information



## Bulletin of Information

*The school does not publish a catalog. Most of the information usually contained in a school catalog has been included in this bulletin. In addition, the school publishes annually a special issue of the regular school newspaper, "The Archon," which is designed to supplement this bulletin and to provide, through photographs and actual news articles, a complete picture of the life and activities of the school. The school will be glad to supply additional copies of this bulletin or of the special issue of "The Archon" upon request.*

Governor Dummer is the oldest endowed boys' boarding school in the United States. It was established in 1763 by Lieutenant-Governor William Dummer, who served for many years as acting governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and who left by will his country estate of about 330 acres situated about thirty miles north of Boston. The school has been in continuous operation since its founding and has retained the original grant of land. The beautiful and historic Mansion House, which Governor Dummer built and to which he brought his bride, is now used as the headmaster's home. And the original little red school house still stands, where taught the celebrated Master Moody and where were educated eighteen members of Congress; two Chief Justices and sixty members of the Massachusetts legislature; nineteen officers in the Revolutionary Army, including four generals and two majors; Rufus King and Nathaniel Gorham, sole signers of the Federal Constitution from Massachusetts; Commodore Preble, conqueror of Tripoli; Samuel Webber, president of Harvard College; and Samuel Phillips, founder of Phillips Academy at Andover.

Governor Dummer is a small school of about 130 boys and eighteen masters. The size of the school and the high ratio of masters to students makes it possible for the headmaster and faculty to treat each boy individually, and to maintain a friendly and homelike school life. The school has a national patronage and more than one-half of the resident students come from homes outside the state of Massachusetts.

Enrollment is limited to the four classes preceding college and corresponding to the four years of high school. Examinations are not usually required for entrance, but a boy is admitted on the basis of his previous school record and after a personal interview with him and his parents. The school reserves the right to dismiss a student at any time, if in the judgment of the school this action is in the best interests of the school community. Enrollment is not strictly limited to those who wish college preparation, but a large majority of the graduates enter college, either by College Board examinations or by the school's certificate.

### EXPENSES

*Boarding Tuition:* The Academy is incorporated not for profit, and is administered by a Board of Trustees. The annual tuition charge for boarding boys, from the opening of school in the fall through the close of the Commencement period in June, is \$1500. It is understood that students are entered for the entire year, and no deductions are ordinarily made for absence. This ruling has to apply even in cases of withdrawal and dismissal.

Tuition is due and payable in three equal installments as follows: \$500 on the opening day of school in the fall; \$500 on December 1st following; and \$500 on February 1st following.



*Day Student's Expenses:* The annual tuition charge for day pupils is \$200, if residing in the Town of Newbury or the Parish of Byfield; and \$300, if residing outside of these limits. Tuition payments for day pupils should be made in three equal installments on the dates specified in the above paragraph referring to boarding students. Day pupils are charged for luncheons in the school dining room at the rate of \$2.50 per week. In case a day pupil is absent from luncheon on two or more successive days, he will receive a credit of 50 cents for each day he is absent. No credit will be allowed for a single day's absence. In case day pupils remain at the school for an occasional single meal in the evening, or during a week-end, no charge will ordinarily be made. But in case a day pupil has two or more successive extra meals, a charge will ordinarily be made according to the following schedule: breakfast, 25 cents; luncheon, 50 cents; dinner, 75 cents.

*Books:* Every effort has been made to avoid extra charges. Many items which are usually billed as extras are included in the regular tuition fee. The only unavoidable extra charge is for school books, in which case the school thinks it worthwhile to encourage a boy's sense of personal ownership. This item will probably amount to \$12 or \$15 in the course of a school year.

*Tuition Inclusive:* No charge is made for the regular Saturday evening entertainments, nor for other lectures, concerts, and moving pictures. No extra charge is made for laboratory courses, nor for the use of the laboratories, studio, library, nor photographic dark room. Elective school courses in Sketching are offered, in which a resident master gives instruction without extra charge in line drawing, painting in oils and water colors, and linoleum block printing.

There is no graduation diploma fee. No charges are made for handling express (except trunks and large boxes), nor for the use of the school motor in meeting trains.

There are no athletic dues, and no charge is made for the use of the athletic field and gymnasium equipment, nor for athletic coaching and supervision. Contrary to the usual custom, the school supplies athletic uniforms except shoes without charge.

The Ould Newbury Golf Club maintains a good nine-hole golf course on school land, which is rented to the Club by the school. The arrangement provides that members of the school may enjoy the privileges of the course by paying to the Club an annual nominal fee of \$10.

No charge is made for dispensary treatment at the school infirmary. Contrary to the usual custom, no charge is made for the use of rooms at the infirmary nor for care and nursing unless a boy remains in residence at the infirmary more than one week. In this case a charge of \$4 a day will be made after the first week, whether or not a special nurse is required. Special nurses will be engaged only with the parents' consent and at their expense.

*Deposit Accounts:* A deposit of \$50 for boarding boys and of \$25 for day students is required at the beginning of the school year. This deposit is used to pay for school books and supplies, and in addition, such optional or personal expenses as each boy may incur and which it is practicable to handle through the school office. Besides the necessary expense for school books and supplies, such optional school expenses or personal expenses might include stationery, subscription to school paper, charity subscriptions, school dance tickets, optional bus trips, doctor's bills, telephone and telegraph, pressing clothes, laundry (if done locally),

cartage of trunks, annual \$10 fee if boy plays golf, and spending money and travelling expenses if administered by the school. The personal expenses which a day student would incur through the school office would probably be limited to the first four or five items listed in the previous sentence.

*Spending Money:* One or two dollars per week is recommended for spending money, as there is little opportunity for a boy to spend money at the school. Most of the parents arrange to have this allowance issued to the boy by the school and charged to the boy's deposit account. Parents are requested to instruct the school if they wish the school to issue spending or allowance money to their sons and in what amounts.

*Supervision of Deposit Account:* The school will be glad to co-operate with parents in limiting the amount of cash (in addition to the allowance) which a boy withdraws from his deposit account, and in restricting personal and optional charges made against his deposit account, but only if requested to do so by the parents. Parents who wish such supervision are requested to write the school, giving as definite instructions as possible regarding the nature of the restrictions they wish.

An itemized statement of expenditures is rendered to parents each month. Parents will be notified when the balance of their deposit becomes low. They will be expected always to keep a balance to their son's credit and to anticipate large withdrawals such as those for travelling expenses. A credit balance at the end of the school year is refundable, but such a balance is usually carried forward to the next year.

*Initial Payment:* The school should receive a check on or before the opening of school in the fall for the first installment of tuition, plus the required deposit of \$50 for boarding students and \$25 for day students. Checks should be made payable to Governor Dummer Academy.

### CLOTHING

Besides the usual large pieces of furniture, each boy's room is provided with a rug, window curtains, desk blotter and pad, study lamp, glass, spoon, mattress, pillow, couch cover, and all of the bed linen. The school will provide table napkins. A boy's outfit should include approximately the following articles:

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Two pairs of blankets     | Handkerchiefs              |
| Comfortable               | Pajamas                    |
| Two laundry bags          | Dressing gown and slippers |
| Dark suit                 | Face and bath towels       |
| School suit               | Shoes                      |
| Old suit                  | Rubbers and arctics        |
| Light and heavy underwear | Hat                        |
| Flannels or slacks        | Heavy sweater              |
| Stockings and socks       | Overcoat, raincoat         |
| Shirts, collars and ties  | Sheepskin coat or mackinaw |

Parents are requested to have their son's clothing supplied at home during vacations. All clothing, including shoes and rubbers, all bedding and laundry bags, should be plainly marked with the name in full.

As stated above, the school supplies athletic uniforms, except shoes, without charge. Each boy, however, should bring with him any athletic equipment he may have, especially football shoes and gymnasium or tennis shoes. A com-



plete line of athletic goods is handled by the school store from which boys may order, if they wish, such personal equipment as tennis racquets, shoes, skiing equipment, sport shoes, flannel trousers, flannel shirts, etc.

*Laundry:* The school does not pay for a boy's personal laundry. Many boys send their laundry home by parcel post, in special laundry mailing boxes, but in order to accommodate families who do not wish this arrangement, the school makes arrangements with a good local laundry to make collections and deliveries once a week.

### HEALTH

*Medical Examinations:* The school does not submit the boys to periodic physical or medical examinations, unless in case of illness or accident, or unless specifically requested by the parents. Accordingly, parents should inform the school in writing of any physical condition, as for example, a heart condition or hernia, which might make it necessary to limit a boy's participation in athletics. The school entrance application form provides an opportunity for giving this information. Experience has shown that it is wise to have a boy's eyes and teeth thoroughly examined within a reasonably short time before the opening of each school year. Parents are requested to arrange, whenever possible, to have all doctor, dentist, oculist, and other important appointments made during vacation periods.

*Resident Nurse:* The school keeps an experienced trained nurse in residence. The Anna Jaques Hospital in Newburyport, ten minutes away, is available in emergency cases. This hospital is recognized as a Grade A institution by the American College of Surgeons.

*School Physicians:* The school physician, Dr. Carleton W. Bullard of Newburyport, is a graduate of Harvard College and the Medical School of Harvard University. Dr. Reginald H. Smithwick serves as the school's consulting surgeon. Dr. Smithwick is a graduate of the Medical School of Harvard University and is now a member of its teaching staff. He is a member of the staff of the Massachusetts General Hospital of Boston and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

All boys are instructed to report any sickness or accident to the school infirmary. It is the policy of the school to call the school physician to examine and treat all cases in which there is the slightest doubt in the nurse's mind. If any boy is confined to the infirmary overnight, it is an established rule of the school to report this fact to his parents at once, even though the matter is not serious. In case of any serious illness, the school will keep in constant touch with the boy and his parents.

Parents are requested not to send candy or food, except fresh fruit. Care is taken that the boys may secure in the school dining room plenty of wholesome, well-balanced food.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

*Report Letters:* The headmaster writes report letters to the parents regularly three or four times each year, and more frequently when it seems advisable. The first report is rendered for the period ending November 1st, and is sent only to the parents of new boys. Three regular reports are sent to all parents as of January 1st, April 1st, and June 15th; that is, at the close of each of the three terms. These report letters are not necessarily limited to the boy's scholastic work, but are often concerned with other phases of his school life and personal development.

*Vacations:* In response to the expressed wish of many of the parents to have their sons at home over Thanksgiving, the school annually grants a Thanksgiving holiday, which extends from Wednesday noon until eight o'clock the following Sunday evening. Because a number of the boys have to travel long distances to reach home, a few of them travelling across the continent, the school observes none of the many traditional one-day holidays and instead has lengthened the annual Christmas and Easter vacations, each of which extends between eighteen and twenty-one days.

*Rooms and Pictures:* The school has made an effort to provide unusually home-like and attractive boys' rooms, and it expects that each boy will take an interest in decorating his room and will exercise care in using it. In most of the rooms, the school has already been able, through the gift of a friend, to hang one carefully selected picture. Each boy is strongly urged to bring three or four good framed pictures for his room. Banners and cheap decorations are not permitted. All pictures and decorations must be such as can be suspended from the picture moulding, since the use of thumbtacks in the walls is not permitted.

Boys are not permitted to have firearms or motor vehicles of any kind at the school. Radios and victrolas are not permitted except in the masters' rooms and in the Mansion House.

*Telephone Calls:* Parents are requested to limit the number of telephone calls to their sons so far as is practicable. Boys cannot be called from classes or study halls to answer the telephone, and it is usually an inconvenience to the boy to be called from the athletic field or the dining hall. Necessary calls can best be made in the half-hour directly following the evening meal at school. A boy always has permission to telephone home, and it is better to have telephone calls originate from the school. Do not hesitate to call the headmaster at any time, or to request the school office to deliver messages to your son.

*In order to dignify the name of the school and honor its founder, the practice was begun some few years ago of using the full title, Governor Dummer Academy, and of referring to the school informally as Governor Dummer, instead of Dummer. This change has already been of great benefit, and the school will appreciate the help of parents, and indeed of all its friends, in establishing the name of Governor Dummer.*

